THE CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is CLAIMED is:

1. A rigid fastener for securing to one another adjacent portions of a cover member made of resiliently yieldable material, said fastener being of generally cylindrical form and having opposite end portions, at least one of said end portions being a double-effect engagement portion comprised of an axially outward end section, having a first effective outside diameter, and an axially adjacent inward section having a second effective outside diameter substantially larger than said first diameter, each of said sections of said engagement portion being comprised of plurality of circumferentially extending, mutually adjacent retaining elements engageable in mating recess sections formed into a portion of a resiliently yieldable cover member, said retaining elements of said outward end section of said engagement portion being of said first diameter and said retaining elements of said inward section being of said second diameter.

2. The fastener of Claim 1 wherein at least a multiplicity of said retaining elements extends continuously about said engagement portion of said fastener.

3. The fastener of Claim 1 wherein at least a peripheral edge portion of a least a multiplicity of said retaining elements tapers in the outward direction of said engagement portion, and said multiplicity of elements are of generally barb-like form.

4. The fastener of Claim 1 wherein each of said sections of said engagement portion comprises three of said retaining elements.

5. The fastener of Claim 1 wherein both of said opposite end portions of said fastener is a said double-effect engagement portion.

6. The fastener of Claim 5 wherein said fastener is symmetrical about a trans-axial, medial plane between the opposite ends thereof.

7. The fastener of Claim 6 additionally including a central portion disposed between said opposite end portions.

8. The fastener of Claim 7 wherein said central portion of said fastener has an effective outside diameter not larger than said second diameter of said inward section of said engagement portions.

9. The fastener of Claim 7 wherein said central portion of said fastener has an effective outside diameter larger than said second diameter of said inward section of said engagement portions.

10. The fastener of Claim 7 wherein said central portion is comprised of a multiplicity of elements extending generally radially outwardly relative to the longitudinal axis of said fastener.

11. A cover assembly comprised of a cover member made of resiliently yieldable material and having adjacent portions that are to be secured to one another, and a plurality of rigid fasteners; at least one of adjacent portions of said cover member having formed thereinto a plurality of recesses of generally circular cross section, each said recess comprising an inner section of relatively small effective inside diameter and an adjacent outer section of relatively large effective inside diameter; each of said fasteners being of generally cylindrical form and having opposite end portions, at least one of said end portions being a double-effect engagement portion comprised of an axially outward end section,

having a first effective outside diameter, and an axially adjacent inward section having a second effective outside diameter substantially larger than said first diameter, each of said sections of said engagement portion being comprised of plurality of circumferentially extending, mutually adjacent retaining elements engageable in a corresponding section of said recess formed into said one adjacent portion of said cover member, said inner and outer sections of said recess being configured to engage said retaining elements of said outward end section and said inward section of said fastener engagement portion, respectively, said retaining elements of said outward end section of said engagement portion being of said first diameter and said retaining elements of said inward section being of said second diameter, said first and second diameters being substantially equal to said relatively small diameter and said relatively large diameter, respectively, of said recess sections, whereby said engagement portion of said fastener can be matingly engaged in said recess of said cover member adjacent portion.

12. The cover assembly of Claim 11 wherein the difference between said first and second diameters of said sections of said engagement portion of said each fastener, and the difference between said relatively small and relatively large diameters of said sections of said each recess in said cover member adjacent portion, are such that said outward end section of said fastener engagingly fits relatively loosely in said outer section of said recess but with a degree of mechanical interference sufficient to avoid inadvertent disengagement.

13. The cov r assembly of Claim 12 wherein said outer section of said recess in said one adjacent portion has a minimum inside diameter that is smaller than said first effective outside diameter of said axially outward end section of said engagement portion of said fastener.

14. The cover assembly of Claim 11 wherein the other of said adjacent portions of said cover member has a plurality of said recesses formed thereinto with said recesses of said one adjacent portion normally aligning with said recesses of said other adjacent portion, and wherein both of said opposite end portions of said fastener is a said double-effect engagement portion.

15. The cover assembly of Claim 11wherein said cover member comprises an elongate tubular part having a slit extending longitudinally thercalong; wherein said adjacent portions have confronting surfaces thereon into which said recesses extend; and wherein each of said adjacent portions has a plurality of externally accessible finger-locating elements thereon, said finger-locating elements on said each adjacent portion being disposed in a region spaced peripherally from said confronting surface and with one of said finger-locating elements aligned generally over the inner end of each of said recesses formed into said adjacent portion, whereby securement of said adjacent portions, with said fasteners extending therebetween and spanning said slit along said elongate part, is facilitated.

16. The cover assembly of Claim 15 wherein said finger-locating elements are indentations formed into said regions of said adjacent portions.

17. The cover assembly of Claim 11 wherein said cover member is selected from the group consisting of generally J-shaped and generally L-shaped tubular pieces constructed to cover the J-bend and tail piece of a P-trap assembly, respectively.

18. The cover assembly of Claim 11 wherein said inner and outer section of said recess are internally configured to effectively reproduce the external configurations of said outward and inward sections of said fastener engagement portion, respectively, to thereby afford said mating engagement therebetween.

19. A cover assembly comprised of a cover member made of resiliently yieldable material and having adjacent portions that are to be secured to one another, and a plurality of rigid fasteners; at least one of said adjacent portions of said cover member having formed thereinto a plurality of recesses spaced therealong, each said recess comprising an inner section having a relatively small effective maximum cross-sectional dimension, and an adjacent outer section having a relatively large effective maximum cross-sectional dimension; each of said fasteners having opposite end portions, at least one of said end portions being a double-effect engagement portion comprised of an axially outward end section, having a first maximum outside dimension, and an axially adjacent inward section having a second maximum outside dimension substantially larger than said first dimension; said outward end section of said engagement portion having at least one retaining element effectively of said first dimension, and said inward section of said engagement portion having at least one retaining element effectively of said second dimension, said first and second dimensions being substantially equal to said relatively small dimension and said relatively large dimension, respectively, of said recess sections, and said inner and outer sections of said recess being configured to engage said retaining elements of

said outward end section and said inward end section of said fastener engagement portion, respectively, whereby each of said sections of said engagement portion is securely engageable in a corresponding section of said recess formed into said one adjacent portion of said cover member and said engagement portion of said fastener can be matingly engaged in said recess of said cover member adjacent portion; the difference between said first and second dimensions of said sections of said engagement portion of said each fastener, and the difference between said relatively small and relatively large dimensions of said sections of said each recess in said cover member portion, being such that said outward end section of said fastener engagingly fits relatively loosely in said outer section of said recess but with a degree of mechanical interference sufficient to avoid inadvertent disengagement.

20. The cover assembly of Claim 19 wherein said outer section of said recess in said one adjacent portion has an effective minimum dimension that is smaller than said first maximum outside dimension of said outward end section of said one end portion of said fastener.